

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic device having communication unit
executing authentication by a specific identification
code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

5 a switch capable of switching between a first
state and a second state;

an inhibition unit configured to inhibit the
authentication by the specific identification code when
the switch is set in the first state; and

10 a permission unit configured to permit the
authentication by the specific identification code when
the switch is set in the second state.

2. A device according to claim 1, further
comprising:

15 a time detection unit configured to detect whether
a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is
set in the second state; and

20 a control unit configured to inhibit the
authentication by the specific identification code when
the time detection unit detects that the predetermined
time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second
state.

25 3. An electronic device having radio communica-
tion unit executing authentication by a specific
identification code in creating a link to another
device, comprising:

a storage unit storing a management information

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used for the authentication by the specific
identification code;

a switch capable of switching between a first
state and a second state;

5 an inhibition unit configured to inhibit change of
the management information stored in the storage unit
when the switch is set in the first state; and

a permission unit configured to permit change of
the management information stored in the management
10 information storage unit when the switch is set in the
second state.

4. A device according to claim 3, further
comprising:

a time detection unit configured to detect whether
15 a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is
set in the second state; and

a control unit configured to inhibit change of the
management information stored in the management
information storage unit when it is detected that the
20 predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set
in the second state.

5. An electronic device having radio communica-
tion unit which requires authentication by a specific
identification code in creating a link to another
25 device, comprising:

a device code storage unit storing a device code
of each linked device;

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created link information in correspondence with the device; and

a deletion unit configured to delete link information of a device which is determined as an unnecessary device in accordance with a predetermined rule when the number of registered devices with the link information exceeds an allowable number.

7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the registration unit registers a last connection time of each device in correspondence with the link information of each device, and

the deletion unit deletes, of pieces of link information registered in the registration unit, link information of a device having an oldest connection time.

8. A device according to claim 6, wherein the registration unit registers a registration time in correspondence with the link information of each device, and

the deletion unit deletes, of pieces of link information registered in the registration unit, link information of a device having an oldest registration time.

9. A device according to claim 6, wherein the registration unit registers the number of times of connection of each device in correspondence with the link information of each device, and

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the deletion unit deletes, of pieces of link information registered in the registration unit, link information of a device having a smallest number of times of connection.

5 10. An electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

10 a storage unit storing the specific identification code;

 an authentication unit configured to execute, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code stored in the storage unit when a connection request is received from another device;

15 a creation unit configured to create link information to a device for which it is determined that the authentication is successful;

 a registration unit configured to register the created link information in correspondence with the device; and

20 a deletion unit configured to delete all pieces of registered link information when the specific identification code stored in the storage unit is changed.

25 11. An electronic device which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

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an authentication unit configured to execute, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device;

a registration unit configured to register the
15 created link information in correspondence with the
device; and

20 12. A connection control method used for an
electronic device having communication unit which
requires authentication by a specific identification
code in creating a link to another device, and a switch
capable of switching between a first state and a second
25 state, comprising:

permitting the authentication by the specific
identification code when the switch is set in the

second state; and

inhibiting the authentication by the specific identification code when the switch is set in the first state.

5 13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising:

determining whether it is detected that a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state; and

10 inhibiting the authentication by the specific identification code when the predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state.

15 14. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, a memory storing a management information management information used for connection to another device, and a switch capable of switching between a first state and a second state, comprising:

20 permitting change of the management information stored in the memory when the switch is set in the second state; and

25 inhibiting change of the management information stored in the memory when the switch is set in the first state.

15. A method according to claim 14, further

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comprising:

determining whether a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state; and

5 inhibiting change of the management information stored in the memory when the predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state.

16. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which
10 requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, a first memory for storing a device code of each linked device, and a second memory for storing the device code and the number of times of error occurrence of another device
15 in correspondence with each other, comprising:

executing, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device and the device code of the device is not stored in the first memory;

20 storing the device code of the device and the number of times of error occurrence in the second memory in correspondence with each other when it is determined by the authentication that the authentication fails; and

25 rejecting the connection request from the device having the corresponding device code when the number of times of error occurrence stored in the second memory

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exceeds a predetermined number of times.

17. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, and a memory for storing link information to another device in correspondence with the device, comprising:

executing, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device;

creating link information to a device for which it is determined by the authentication that the authentication is successful;

registering the link information in correspondence with the device and, when the number of registered devices with the link information exceeds an allowable number, deleting link information of a device which is determined as an unnecessary device in accordance with a predetermined rule.

18. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, a first memory for storing the specific identification code, and a second memory for storing link information of another device in correspondence with the device, comprising:

executing, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code stored in the first memory when a connection request is received from another device;

5 creating link information to a device for which it is determined by the authentication that the authentication is successful;

 registering the link information in the second memory in correspondence with the device; and

10 deleting all pieces of link information registered in the second memory when the specific identification code stored in the first memory is changed.

 19. A connection control method used for an electronic device having an exchangeable radio communication unit to be connected to another device which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to the device, a first memory for storing an identification code unique to the radio communication unit, and a second memory for storing link information of another device in
15 correspondence with the device, comprising:
20 executing, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code stored in the first memory when a connection request is received from another device;

25 creating link information to a device for which it is determined by the authentication that the

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authentication is successful, on the basis of the identification code of the radio communication unit, which is stored in the first memory;

5 registering the link information in the second
memory in correspondence with the device; and

deleting all pieces of link information registered in the second memory when the radio communication unit is exchanged.